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Torch

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Summer 6-1-1986

# Torch, Summer 1986

Cedarville College

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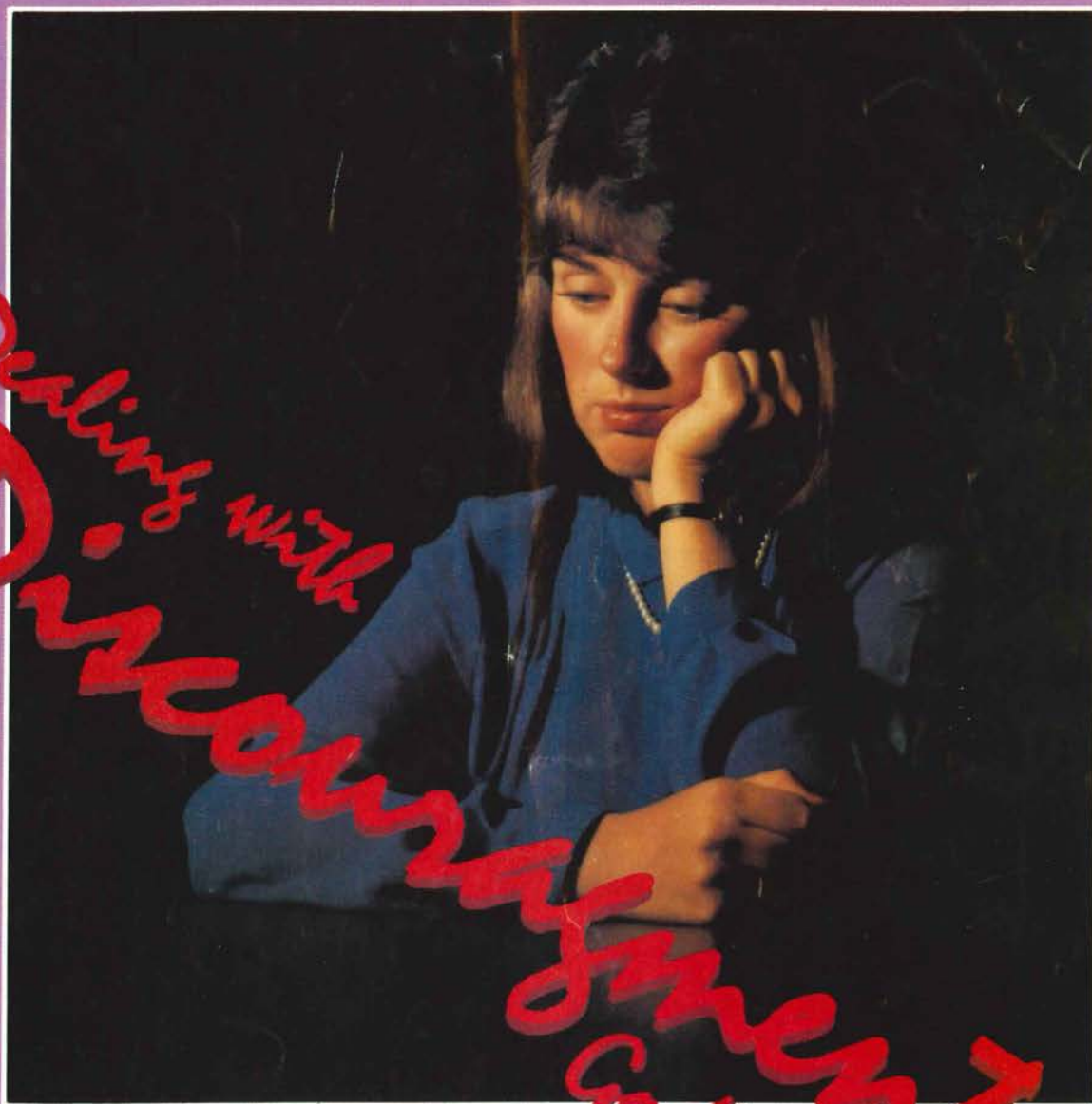
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# CEDARVILLE TORCH

A Magazine Ministry of Cedarville College



Dealing with  
Discontent  
Jennett  
God's Way



## Itineraries

### Dr. Paul Dixon, President

August 10 Atlanta Braves Chapel, Atlanta, GA • August 17 Tansi RV Park, Crossville, TN • August 21 Gospel Baptist Tabernacle, Crossville, TN • September 21 Reds/Dodgers Chapel, Cincinnati, OH • September 28 Canton Baptist Temple, Canton, OH • October 4 Ill-Mo Youth Rally, Peoria, IL • October 5-8 First Baptist Church, Lapeer, MI • August 20 OARBC Meeting, Cedar Hill Baptist Church, Cleveland, OH

### Dr. James T. Jeremiah, Chancellor

August 3, 10 Garfield Baptist Church, Milwaukee, WI • August 17 Springville Baptist Church, Springville, PA • August 18-24 Montrose Bible Conference, Montrose, PA • September 15-26 Muskoka Baptist Conference, Huntsville, Ontario • October 5 Evergreen Baptist Church, Tacoma, WA • October 12-15 Twin City Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, NC • October 17, 18 Homecoming, Cedarville College, Cedarville, OH

### Dr. Hugh Hall, Director of Church Relations

August 3 Faith Baptist Church, Streetsboro, OH • September 8-11 19th Annual Pastors' Conference, Cedarville College, Cedarville, OH • September 14-17 Berean Baptist Church, Albion, IN • September 22-23 Indiana State GARBC Meeting, Central Baptist Church, Hobart, IN • October 6-11 Senior Citizens' Retreat, Lake Ann Camp, Lake Ann, MI • October 12-15 Ensley Baptist Church, Sand Lake, MI • October 20-22 Ohio State GARBC Meeting, Cedar Hill Baptist Church, Cleveland, OH • October 27-28 Michigan State GARBC Meeting, Calvary Baptist Church, Muskegon, MI

## Next Issue:

"SENIOR ADULTS: An Untapped Resource" is the theme of the next TORCH. With the percentage of older people increasing each year, it is vital that we awake to the wealth of experience and wisdom that these senior saints possess. This issue will explore senior adults in the Bible, family, church, and community contexts. Look for your copy in the fall.

The Cedarville College TORCH is published quarterly for the alumni and friends of Cedarville College. Comments and requests for reprints should be directed to:

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## Please Help!

Many copies of our TORCH magazine are returned to us because our readers have moved without notifying us. Then the Postal Service charges us hundreds of dollars to send us the new addresses. Would you help us by dropping us a line when you move? Thanks for your assistance.



# Of Mountains and Valleys

by Dr. Paul Dixon



**H**ow are you today, brother? Great! Super! Fantastic! Tremendous! Out of Sight!

Really? All the time? I doubt it. Life isn't one long mountaintop experience, and our God never promised that everything would always be great. He assures us of trials and valleys. The Christian life has its surprises, its downers, its times of disappointment, defeat, and discouragement. Too often the Christian community carries out this facade and puts on this positive veneer to the disservice of themselves and to the discredit of their Lord.

Some years ago my son Scott and I were watching a national television evangelistic outreach conducted by a well known evangelical organization. Politicians, athletes, and television personalities gave their testimonies of receiving Christ and related how wonderful the Christian life was. An invitation to repent of sin and trust Christ by faith was extended to those watching. At the conclusion of the telecast Scott turned to me and asked, "Dad, how are people who respond positively to that invitation to receive Christ going to handle it when they face trouble in their Christian lives?" Good question! They had just heard an unrealistic portrayal of Christianity.

David became so discouraged that he prayed that he might have a dove's wings to fly away from it all. Jeremiah reached such depths of spirit that he cried, "Oh that I had in the wilderness a lodging place of wayfaring men; that I might leave my people, and go from them! for they be all adulterers, an assembly of treacherous men." Is it any wonder that Jeremiah was discouraged — considering the crowd God gave him to work with. Most of the problems that get us down are people problems. As one wag stated, "If there weren't any people, there wouldn't be any problems." Because of Jezebel, the prophet Elijah asked God to kill him.

History reveals that some of the greatest saints had fits of discouragement and depression. C.H. Spurgeon



had a tremendously sensitive spirit and a bad case of the gout that caused him to leave the pulpit in depression for weeks and even months. In his diary David Brainerd reveals discouragement over his own spiritual inadequacies as well as the behavior of others.

Rabbi Harold S. Kushner wrote a best selling book, *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*; the sequel is entitled *When All You've Ever Wanted Isn't Enough*. He argues that to live is to face pain and discouragement. "To be alive is to feel pain, and to hide from pain is to make yourself less alive." Kushner reveals that after John F. Kennedy was shot, a tearful Daniel Patrick Moynihan was heard to say, "When you are Irish, you learn that sooner or later this world will break your heart." The Christian must face this same world with its hurts and pain-producers. There will be times of disappointment, defeat, and discouragement. The difference is that we have our God as the great Encourager. He is sovereign and has a purpose for allowing the painful experiences as well as the joyful ones.



by Daniel J. Estes

**P**icture the Little Leaguer striking out with the bases loaded. Imagine the teenager whose boyfriend has just broken up with her. Think of the student failing a test. Or sympathize with the adult devastated by criticism. Discouragement finds all of us sooner or later. We hear ourselves crying, "I want to give up. I can't handle it. Enough!"

We live in a society of discouraged people. Many contend with serious discouragement which may lead to depression, a leading mental health problem in the United States. The question all around us is, "How can I keep going when I feel like giving up?"

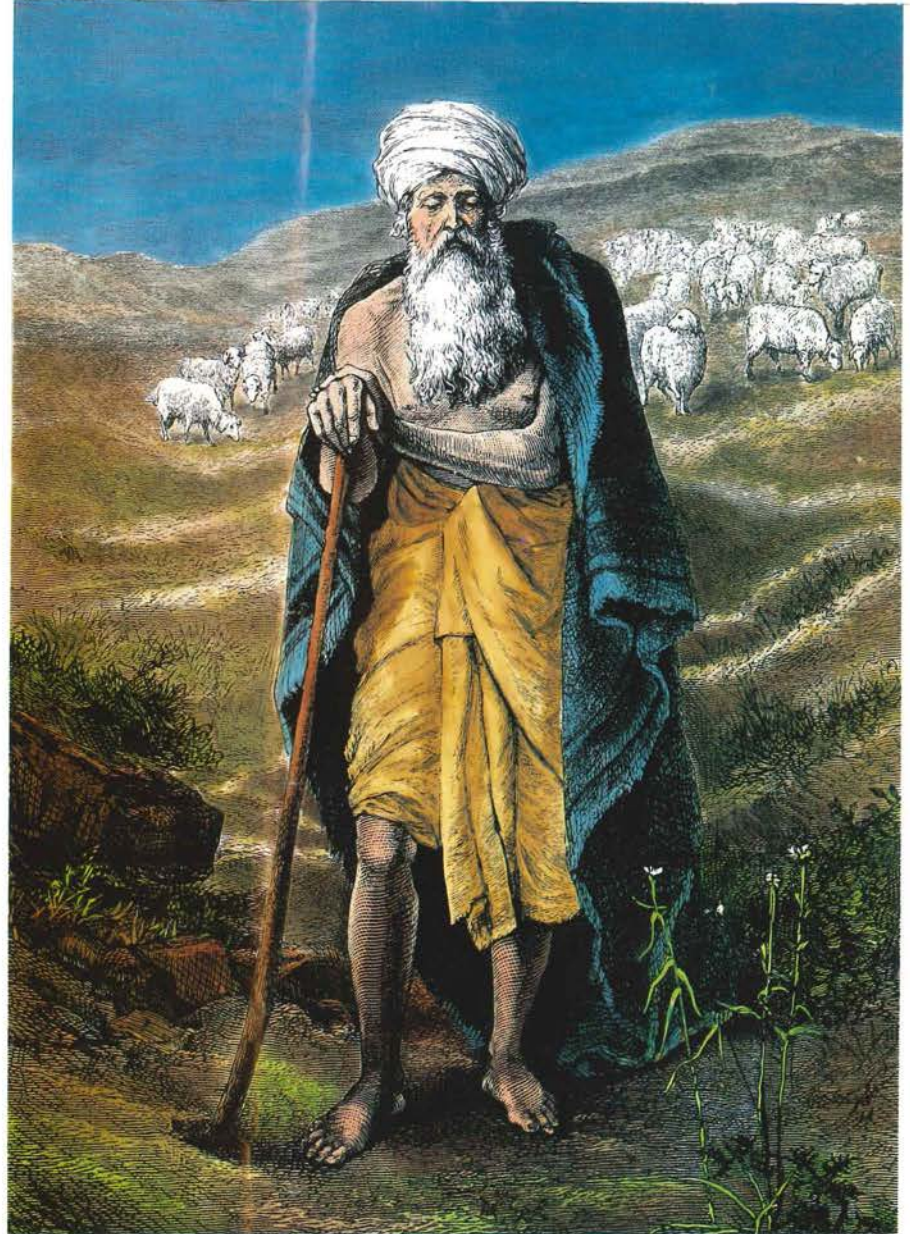
For the Christian, the issue is even more perplexing. The Christian battling discouragement asks, "Where is the abundant life that Jesus promised? Is my relationship with God good only for the sweet bye-and-bye or can it also sustain me in the bitter here-and-now?"

In I Kings 19, we trace the steps of Elijah as he went from the thrill of victory to the agony of defeat. We see the prophet of God who had just come off the mountaintop, but was soon in the pits of despair. We hear the sob of a whiner, not the shout of a winner. Through this experience Elijah learned, and we too can learn, how to defeat discouragement. Elijah is a pattern of how to keep going when we feel like giving up.

### 1. Elijah giving up

Elijah had just completed one of the most exhausting and exhilarating days of his life. In I Kings 18 we learn that he had confronted King Ahab and all the prophets of Baal. The courageous prophet had moved the nation of Israel to acknowledge, "The LORD, He is God" (I Kings 18:39). It appears that even the wicked Ahab was softened by the scene.

But not Ahab's wife Jezebel.



## ELIJAH: Down But Not Out

Without hesitating or beating around the bush, she issued Elijah an ultimatum which said in effect, "Get out of town today or you will be dead tomorrow" (I Kings 19:2). It's not hard to imagine Elijah's response. He did what almost anyone would have done. He ran. In fact, he fled through Israel, down the length of Judah, and then into the desert for a day before he flopped down under a juniper tree 80 miles or more from home.

Elijah had expected a national revival, but he got only a personal reversal. His disappointment led him to discouragement, and discouragement plunged him into despair. He was totally exhausted. Elijah had given up.

Psychiatrists have shown that depression can be rooted in the *physical*, the *spiritual*, or the *psychological* areas of life. In I Kings 19:5-21, God healed Elijah at each of these problem points. Elijah's challenges may have been too much for him, but they weren't too much for the Lord. Even though he had given up on himself, the Lord had not given up on Elijah.

### 2. Elijah resting up

In verses 5-7, the Lord first brought *physical healing* to Elijah. It has been said, "Fatigue makes cowards of us all." God gave the prophet a time for extended rest and refreshment to fortify his body and to counteract his depression.



With our fast-paced, hectic schedules we must remember to take care of our physical bodies. Depression may be avoided and overcome, in part, by maintaining proper diet, sleep, and exercise.

### 3. Elijah looking up

However, Elijah's problem was more than just bodily fatigue. Depression may indeed require physical healing at times, but it most often necessitates *spiritual healing*. Elijah needed a vacation to fortify his strength, but even more he needed renewal to clarify his vision. In verses 8-14, God took Elijah back to the fundamentals, to his spiritual roots. The tarnish of troubles was scrubbed off, so that the radiance of God's control and care might be seen.

If Elijah had gone directly to Mount Horeb, he could easily have reached his destination in ten days or so. But we notice in verse 8 that he went "forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mountain of God." Why so long? Why 40 days? Though it cannot be proven definitely, it seems likely that the Lord was causing Elijah to retrace the steps the nation of Israel had wandered for 40 years in the same wilderness. At last God brought Elijah back to the very place where he had revealed Himself to Moses and to the children of Israel. What Elijah needed was not a brand new story, but the old, old story. His problem had clouded his perspective. He needed to gain a fresh appreciation for the Lord's character and purpose.

God did not cure Elijah by giving him facts. Instead, He showed Elijah a powerful picture. As Elijah stood on Mount Horeb, a mighty wind blasted the peak, but the Lord was not in the wind. Next, an earthquake split the great boulders, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. Afterward, a fire roared around the prophet, but the Lord was not in the fire. At last the voice of God came on the wings of a gentle blowing.

Though the picture is not interpreted, its meaning is clear. Elijah's concept of God was too narrow and limited. He delighted in the God of justice whose power could crush all

sinners opposed to Him. He loved God's vengeance, but he needed to learn God's mercy. Elijah wanted to win the battle over Baal, but he failed to appreciate that the Lord wanted to win the war in the hearts of men. Like James and John who wanted to destroy the Samaritans by fire (Luke 9:51-55), Elijah had lost sight of the reality that God is seeking

was a special friend who could help and cheer Elijah.

James 5:17 states, "Elijah was a man with a nature like ours." He could honestly say to discouraged people, "I know just how you feel." He had tasted the bitterness of rejection. He had wilted from the heat of adversity. He had caved in under pressure, and he had given up.

## *Elijah was more than just a pattern of discouragement. He is a pattern for victory over discouragement.*

lost people in order to save them. Even after this illustration of the Lord's mercy, Elijah persisted in his self-pity (verses 13-14). Nevertheless, the process of healing had begun. God hadn't answered all his questions, but He had put the prophet back on his feet.

### 4. Elijah getting up

In I Kings 19:5-7, the Lord brought *physical healing* to Elijah. In verses 8-14, the prophet received *spiritual healing*. Now the time was right for *psychological healing* in verses 15-21. Two prescriptions enabled Elijah to get up. First, God gave him a set of responsibilities in verses 15-16. In essence the Lord was saying, "Elijah, stop worrying and start working!" As the prophet of the Lord, Elijah was commissioned to anoint the new king of Syria, the new king of Israel, and his own successor.

But along with the responsibility also came reassurance. In verse 17, Elijah was encouraged by the fact of judgment. God said He would take care of the problems that had brought the prophet to despair, but in His own time and in His own way. Also, in verse 18, the Lord reminded Elijah of the family of believers. Elijah wasn't nearly as alone as he had feared. There were still many believers who were standing for God, sympathetic people who could understand him and support him in his discouragement. Moreover, the Lord provided the encouragement of a companion in verses 19-21. Elisha

Nevertheless, Elijah was more than just a picture of discouragement. He is a pattern for victory over discouragement. He teaches today's believer how to keep going when he feels like giving up, and how to get up after falling down. Elijah's example offers these practical keys for overcoming discouragement.

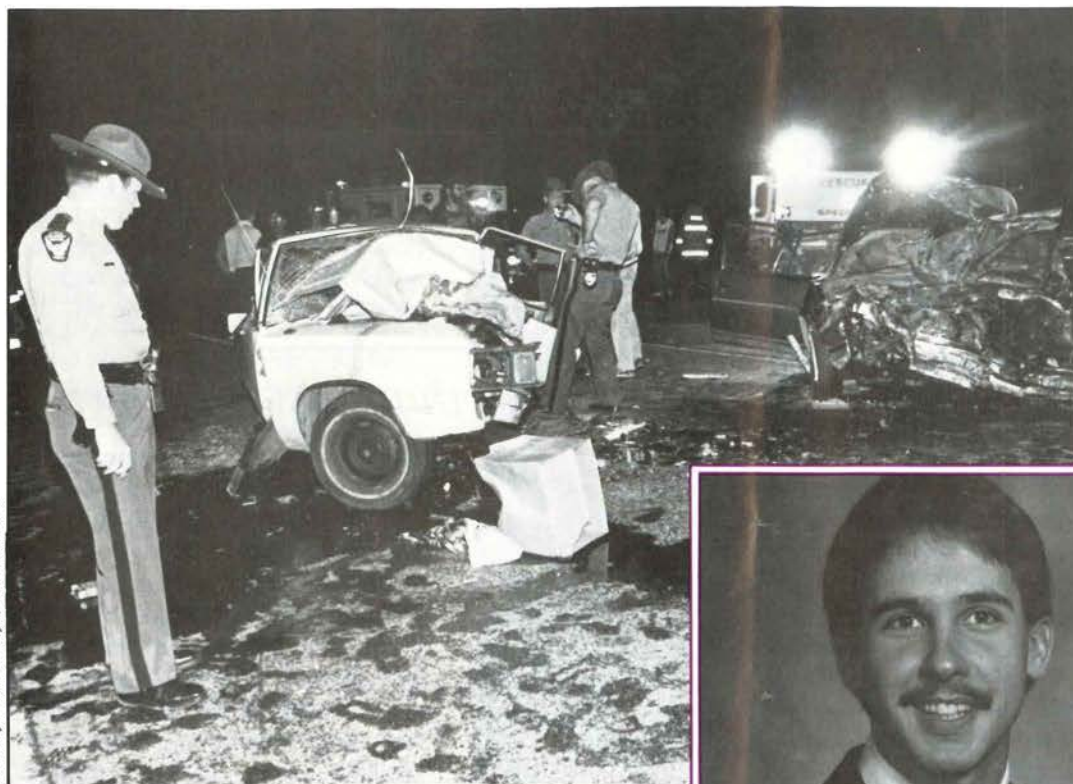
1. Maintain proper physical health by getting adequate food, sleep, and exercise.
2. Keep the focus off self and on the Lord.
3. Refresh the memory about God's attributes and purpose by meditating on His Word.
4. Keep busy doing what God wants you to do.
5. Establish a network of supportive friendships.

Christians are imperfect people. We strike out. We fail. We have disappointments. However, victory over discouragement is not achieved by our resources, but by God's resources. As with Elijah, God is able to provide help in time of need that enables us to keep going even when we feel like giving up. When life gets us down, God can get us up.

Daniel J. Estes is Assistant Professor of Bible at Cedarville College. A 1974 graduate of the college, he received the Th.M. degree from Dallas Theological Seminary. He and his family are presently in England where Dan is engaged in doctoral study at the University of Cambridge.

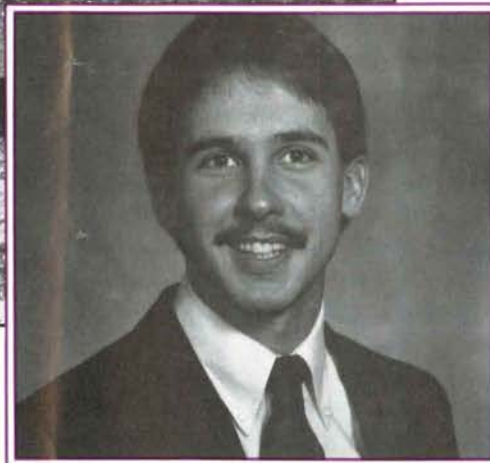






# My Shipwreck

by Jeff Bergandine



Our human minds are unable to understand why our Lord allows certain things to happen to certain people. We as Christians tend mostly to think in the here and now rather than having our minds tuned into the eternal. This can be the beginning of discouragement in our lives.

The discouragement I have felt in my life had its beginning on April 30, 1986. As was the custom on Wednesday nights, a particular group of Cedarville College students set out for Young's Dairy to get doughnuts. Although I usually didn't go with my friends, I made an exception this particular Wednesday. (I took along my accounting textbook to justify the excursion!)

Less than 60 seconds from our destination, we were involved in a head-on collision with another automobile. Two of my friends were killed instantly; two others were injured. I was hurled into the back of the front seat, and all my facial bones were fractured. I was to be in the hospital for four weeks. Never had I fathomed the degree of pain and discouragement that ensued.

The apostle Paul surely felt his share of discouragement. On his way to evangelize Rome, he was shipwrecked on the island of Malta. The natives who greeted him so hospitably wound up turning on him — accusing him of being a murderer.

Yet Paul penned the exhortation to the Ephesians, "... giving thanks always for all things unto God...."

What a prime example of being a spirit-filled saint, able to thank the Lord even during life's unexpected, unpleasant events.

I, like Paul, was "rudely interrupted" while doing what I thought was right.

I was a sophomore at Cedarville, president of my class, editor of the yearbook, and I was anticipating an accounting internship at General Motors Corporation in the summer. That is when my *shipwreck* happened, causing me to miss the last six weeks of school because of my injuries. When I was seemingly on the road to recovery, a series of physical setbacks forced me to decline the much desired internship. **MORE DISCOURAGEMENT!**

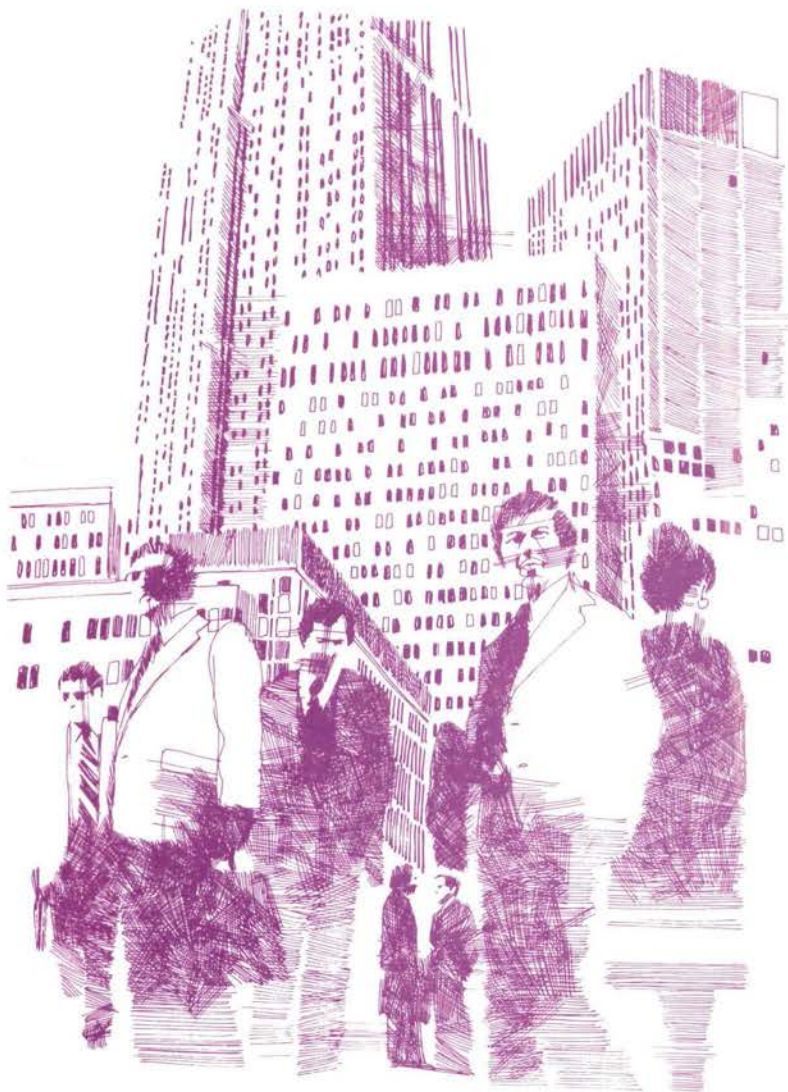
To me, the only consolation during discouraging times is knowing that our Lord allows only those events in our lives which glorify Him. Paul states it so well in Romans 8:18, "...the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."

The apostle Peter claims that we as followers of Christ are called to suffer; so why are we so surprised and *discouraged* when life's trials come our way? It is sin when we refuse to let the Lord work through the circumstances and glorify Himself. My experience has taught me that the only way to overcome this discouragement is to claim passages like Romans 8:18 and pray that God will be glorified!



# The Woes of Work:

## Career Discouragement



by Dr. Martin E. Clark

**T**he honeymoon is over!

Many jobs, like marriages, involve phases. After courting (and/or being romanced by) an employer, and after reaching the agreement to "join up," a honeymoon period begins. Everything is great.

But eventually the honeymoon ends. The employee begins to bump into the nitty-gritty of the work — the parts not covered during the interviews. He finds that while he has escaped the frustrations of his previous job, he has encountered a new set of obstacles. Maybe he even discovers that he brought his problems with him.

The employer also soon confronts reality. He may discover the new hire's greatest ability was self-selling. He may develop a new list of questions to ask in future interviews.

Discouragement sets in.

In work, as in marriage, the end of the honeymoon does not spell the end of the relationship or of its romance. It means that the initial, sometimes artificial, "specialness" of the relationship has worn off. Moving beyond the self-selling and the initial success at work can be trying and often results in discouragement. But the discouragement may come from more serious and threatening problems as well.

Career discouragement can be devastating because most of us forge close ties between our work and our self-definition. We identify ourselves — to ourselves as well as to others — as teachers, artists, physicians, engineers, homemakers, etc. When we suffer vocational setbacks, we may begin to feel inferior, unworthy, threatened, angry, or any number of other negative emotions which lead to discouragement. The problems may come from many sources.

### SOURCES OF CAREER DISCOURAGEMENT

Some discouragement may come during the early stages of a career, in the "settling in" period. One may discover that his daily routines have little similarity to the factors originally attracting him to the position. Or he may encounter those who have filled a similar position and have become cynical toward its value. Others may take a position on a temporary basis until what they really want is available.

Other frustrations come later and can be more discouraging. Typical of these are:

- feeling one's hard work and commitment have not paid off in appropriate advancements in responsibility and salary
- tiring of specific tasks, co-workers, supervisors, or working conditions
- seeing one's business or industry change and feeling those changes are leaving him behind
- watching one's industry die and knowing that skills developed over the past years will soon be unmarketable
- sensing a change in one's life meaning and wondering if his efforts are contributing anything of real value
- carrying over problems one is having in marriage, parenting, or other life spheres so they affect his career also
- losing one's job, which represents a threat to his sense of worth as well as to his manner of living
- retiring — a traumatic disengagement even if one has been eagerly anticipating it. Ending a career, for whatever reason, may produce a feeling of being divorced from a portion of himself.

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by Martha Baldwin

She is best known as the mother of John and Charles Wesley, a notable accomplishment.

Yet, if ever anyone had reason to be discouraged, Susanna Annesley Wesley was that one.

First of all, bearing 19 children might discourage any mother! However, a closer look reveals that only 10 of those 19 children survived childhood. To lose a child causes a parent terrible grief, but to bury nine must surely break one's heart.

The death of one of the babies was especially tragic. The scene: the rectory at Epworth in Lincolnshire, England, where Susanna's fiery husband Samuel was rector. She was ill and confined to bed. The woman caring for the youngest Wesley child took it to bed with her as she attempted to rest for a few moments. Exhausted, she fell asleep, rolled over on the baby and smothered it. The woman awakened and, terrified, snatched up the body, ran to Susanna's bedroom, and deposited the dead child in its mother's arms.

Other reasons for discouragement? Yes. The Wesleys found Epworth an isolated community whose people were rough, uncouth, and sullen. The parishioners jeered at the Wesleys' refinement and culture and were openly hostile.

The 45-year marriage to Samuel was fraught with trials. Away from home for long periods of time on church business, he left the care of the home and the early education of the children to Susanna. He fancied himself a poet and spent much time writing. Very interested in politics, he subjected his family to insults and abuse when he supported unpopular political figures. Once he left home in a huff following a disagreement with his wife over their political opinions and loyalties. During the year that he was away, one of their daughters was born. After their reconciliation, their famous son John was born.

Besides not being able to relate well to his parishioners, Samuel was a poor financial manager. No matter what resources came in, somehow he kept his family in near poverty and frequently borrowed. Once he was jailed for three months for owing a 30£ note that he could not pay. During that time his family suffered great hardship, but Susanna sent him all that she could, even her rings that he might buy food for himself. He wrote, "...she had nothing else to relieve me with; but I returned them, and God soon provided for me." He spared no cost in providing higher education for his sons, but often had to borrow to accomplish it.

Enough reasons for discouragement? How about two raging fires, each of which destroyed their home and almost resulted in loss of life? Angry parishioners may have started at least one of them.

Another discouraging episode: After the second fire, the Wesleys had rebuilt their home, this time of brick. For a two-month period in 1716, some well-documented supernatural events occurred in the Epworth rectory. On a regular basis, the family heard groanings, knockings, crashes, clanging of metal, and splintering of glass. Investigations produced nothing. The noises even responded when family members knocked back. The younger

# Susanna





children timidly called the phenomenon "Old Jeffrey," and one day, as unexpectedly as it had come, "Old Jeffrey" left the rectory after some final knocks on the exterior walls.

A great disappointment in Susanna's life was what she called "the fatal dispersion" of the children into several families' homes following one of the fires. "Many rude ways were learned which were not reformed without some difficulty," she wrote later, and "strict reform" was indeed undertaken when the family came together again!

What kind of a woman could endure trials and disappointments such as these? And how did she deal with them?

First, Susanna Wesley loved God. And secondly, she did her very best for Him with the talent He had given her, in the circumstances He had placed her.

Early in her life, she "resolved to spend more time on prayer than on pleasure." She knew that her strength came from God. In times of deep adversity which caused her to be anxious, doubtful, and unbelieving, she prayed that God would keep her from thinking severely or unjustly of others; she asked Him to keep her from dejection, covetousness, or distraction from her communion with Him. She asked that God would use all the disappointments and calamities in such a way that they would unite her heart more closely with Him and would separate her affections from worldly things. She wished only "to stay and center my soul in Him, to confine my desires, hopes, and expectations of happiness to Him alone."

Susanna's contemporaries and biographers described her as beautiful, charming, intelligent, warm, and of strong character. The daughter of a godly Dissenter minister, she had "theology in her blood" and an exceptional education which she faithfully passed on to her children. They knew Latin, Greek, and had memorized a large part of the New Testament by the time they left her tutelage. And because of their mother's "kindly but ferocious

discipline," they were well-mannered, loving, respectful, and, yes, they were happy children.

When asked by son John in later years to document her philosophy of child rearing, Susanna wrote, "...no one can, without renouncing the world in the most literal sense, observe my method." She shared with him, "Self-will is the root of all sin and misery" and "In order to form the minds of children, the first thing to be done is to conquer their will and bring them to an obedient temper....neglecting timely correction, they will contract a stubbornness and obstinacy which is hardly ever after conquered." She also wrote that a child should be "governed by the reason and piety of its parents till its own understanding comes to maturity and the principle of religion [has] taken part in the mind."

Susanna set up for her children an orderly schedule of living. She taught the children "to fear the rod and to cry softly by which means they escaped abundance of correction which they might otherwise have had...." They were to eat such things as were provided for the family and there was no eating between meals. Such offences as lying, pilfering, disobedience, and quarrelling never passed unpunished. Obedience, "when it crossed upon their own inclinations," she commended and rewarded.

In the busyness of her day, Susanna never lost sight of the fact that each child needed individual tutoring. Her children began their formal home schooling on their fifth birthday. Susanna expected them to learn the alphabet in one day (two of the girls needed one and one-half days!). Then she introduced them to Genesis 1:1, heard them spell out the all the letters and then taught them the words. When they mastered that verse, they went on to verse 2. In a day when few girls could read, Susanna declared, "...a girl should not be taught to work until she reads well."

The older children helped the younger ones with Bible reading and memorization. Singing Psalms was

a favorite family activity. Thus, Susanna Wesley opened the minds of her children to education and grounded them in the Word of God.

After the children left home, they continued to seek her counsel on biblical doctrine, current issues, and the works of contemporary writers and theologians.

Despite Samuel's shortcomings, there existed love, shared interests, and mutual respect between him and his family. He wrote of his wife:

*She graced my humble roof,  
and blessed my life,  
Blest me by a far greater name  
than wife...*

\* \* \*

*Her house her pleasure was,  
and she was mine;  
Rarely abroad, or never,  
but with me  
Or when by pity called,  
or charity.*

Susanna Annesley Wesley is indeed a role model for us. She shows us that deep, abiding faith in God and obedience to His Word is the key to enduring adversity, the forerunner of discouragement. Not only did she endure; she also passed along a godly heritage to her children — an accomplishment that endures for eternity.

Typical of her were the words she uttered on her deathbed: "Children, as soon as I am released, sing a psalm of praise to God." The inscription on her tombstone in Bunhill Fields states:

*In sure and certain hope to rise,  
And claim her mansion in the skies,  
A Christian here her flesh laid down  
The cross exchanging for a crown.*



Martha Baldwin is Associate Editor of TORCH magazine and serves as a writer for the Public Relations Department at Cedarville College. She is a graduate of Iowa State University.



## **HELP FOR CAREER DISCOURAGEMENT** **Realizing self worth results in freedom to "do."**

Because our identities and our careers are so closely intertwined, it is essential to clarify issues of personal worth. *Our value is determined by who we are, not by what we do. As creatures of God, bearers of His image, our value is not open to question.* Additionally, saved persons have the redemptive grace and love of God in their lives which totally eliminates the possibility of worthlessness.



Yet our culture continues to define value in terms of productivity. Although "what's he worth?" is a common way of asking about financial or earning status, it is an absolutely inaccurate measure of human worth. Christians fall into this trap. How often we hear a saint sigh, "I guess I have more to do, or else God would take me home to heaven." Cannot life have value as the handiwork and blessing of God, and on that basis alone? Must everything be measured on the pragmatic scales of productivity?

While "being" cannot be separated from "doing," the order is extremely important. When one sees himself as a person of worth by God's decree, he then may experience freedom to "do." His productivity springs from his liberty, not from a legalistic effort to prove himself.

### **Lengthening one's vision puts frustration into perspective.**

The Scripture encourages us. "Let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we do not lose heart" (Galatians 6:9). We may ask, "Am I doing well? Can I see positive merit resulting from my efforts?" Keeping the long-range view in mind helps us look beyond the daily or short-term aggravations. The vision may be what we are accomplishing by our work itself or what we may be providing in some other sphere of life by our work. The goal may be family security, our children's education, an enlarged stewardship ministry, or any other appropriate objective. But in any case, the frustrations may be endured when we have length in our vision.

### **Serving Christ gives all work worth.**

Paul encouraged slaves, whose work must have been incredibly discouraging, to realize that ultimately they were serving Jesus Christ (Ephesians 6:5-8). They could do this work heartily, no matter how debasing they thought their tasks. Their dignity came not from the tasks, but from the eternally personal relationship between the worker and God. Remembering that even the performing of menial work has this wonderful potential can help dissipate discouragement.

## **Solving non-job-related problems eases career discouragement.**

Discouragement rooted in almost any other sphere of life may crop up as a career problem. Interpersonal or family conflicts, personal insecurities, unresolved anger, or any number of other problems may surface first in work tension. Changing jobs may produce a



series of "vocational honeymoons," but the problems recur. The clear definition of the real problem, followed by constructive action to address it, will probably bring surprising relief in career frustration.

### **Enriching the job fulfills the employee.**

Success itself may poison a career. Overcoming obstacles and achieving goals usually produces an enlarged ambition and a capacity for greater challenges. One may discover that he has talents not needed in the daily activities of his job. He may long for a chance to try his newly found gifts but see the paths to that fulfillment blocked.

New gifts do not necessarily dictate a job change. A creative person may find ways to employ them to enrich or enlarge his current position. The wise employer encourages such creative initiative, for he realizes that both the new ideas and the fulfilled employee contribute to everyone's benefit.

### **Changing jobs may allow better use of gifts.**

Self-discovery may lead to a job change. The Scripture asserts, "A man's gift makes room for him" (Proverbs 18:16). God invests gifts in his children to be used for His glory, others' good, and personal fulfillment. Working in conditions not conducive to these goals rightly prompts an investigation of the alternatives.

Israel's King David illustrates a clear career progression. As a young man, he excelled at shepherding his father's sheep. He later served as a professional musician to King Saul's court, then a soldier, and finally, King. Each stage in his career prepared him for the following ones. As a novice warrior, for instance, he attributed his leadership attitudes to the challenges he had faced and overcome as a shepherd (I Samuel 17:32-37). Like David, changes in our careers may be God-ordered and based on enlarged capacity already demonstrated.

But what if those new opportunities do not appear as quickly as one wishes? How does one handle the frustration in the interim?



### Finishing well honors God.

Although difficult, one of the best approaches is to *focus on doing the very best work in the position one wants to leave*. Too often the decision to make a change prompts a diversion of one's attention and effort away from current responsibilities, and this change is accompanied by an erosion in attitude toward the current employer and colleagues. These changes almost ensure that a positive transition will not occur. No one wants to employ someone who shows a critical, negative attitude toward his current work. On the other hand, one of the best recommendations a person can earn is that he finished well, demonstrating loyalty during the difficult transition period. Scripture advises, "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might" (Ecclesiastes 9:10).

\* \* \* \* \*

Let's personalize this information. As in the best of marriages, the honeymoon ends sooner or later in virtually every career. Once this artificial specialness is past, we can begin building real substance into our involvements. God "grows us" using successes, failures, and a myriad of intervening factors. We may choose to respond by becoming discouraged. Or we may choose constructive, positive responses that demonstrate faithfulness — to God, and to His gifts to us.



Dr. Martin E. Clark is Vice President for Development at Cedarville College. For a number of years he served Cedarville College as Director of Counseling Services and Director of Planning. He is the author of *Choosing Your Career: The Christian's Decision Manual*

"Ten rules for getting rid of the blues: Go out and do something for someone else — and repeat it nine times."

"You can tell how big a man is by observing how much it takes to discourage him."

"Don't despair. Even the sun has a sinking spell every night, but it rises again in the morning."



## It's a Personal Relationship!

Karen *thought* she was a Christian when she came to Cedarville College. She enjoyed being with Christian young people, and she'd even made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ because she believed that He had died for the sins of the world — that is, the world in general.

But during Fall Bible Conference at Cedarville, God opened Karen's heart to the realization that Christ had died for *her* — that she indeed was a sinner by birth and by choice and that the only way for her to be right with God was through Christ's death on the cross for her personally. At that moment she trusted Christ as *her* Savior.

How about *you*? Have *you* repented of *your* sin and trusted Christ as your only hope of salvation? It's a *personal* relationship, you know. God loves *you*.

For information on how *you* can know the love of God in a personal way and receive everlasting life, contact:

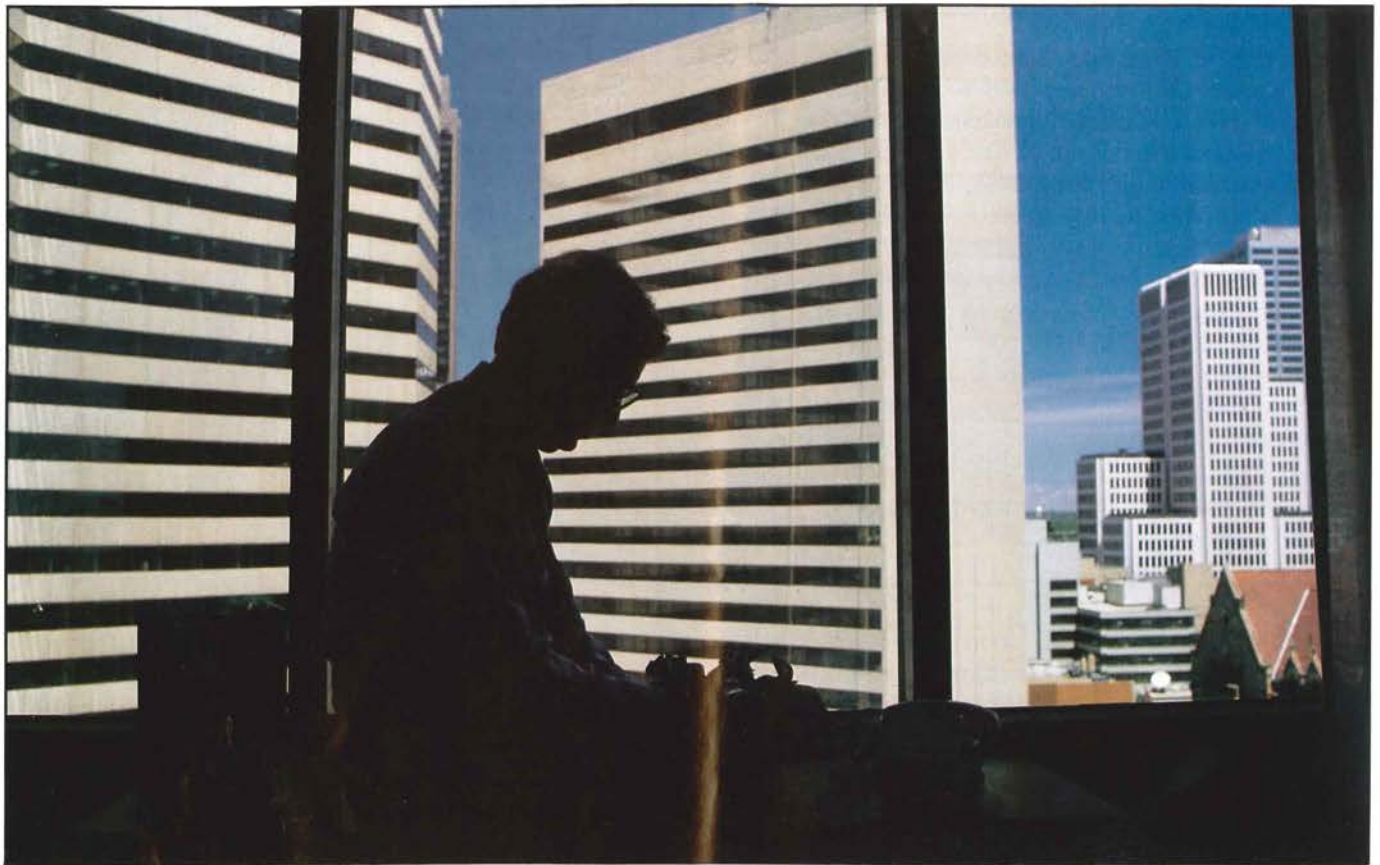
Harold Green  
Vice President for Campus Ministries  
Cedarville College  
P.O. Box 601  
Cedarville, OH 45314  
(513) 766-2211

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23).





# Dealing with Discouragement at the Top

by Dr. Wendell W. Kempton

**D**ejection, disheartenment, lack of spirit, depression, low spirits, gloom, melancholy, despondency, despair, dismay, frustration, consternation, hopelessness, prostration, loss of confidence, cold feet, hesitation, fearfulness, mistrust.

Opposition, resistance, antagonism, contravention, dissuasion, intimidation, expostulation, remonstrance, prohibition.

Dampen, wet blanket, cold water, deterrent, hindrance, impediment, obstacle, barricade, preclusion, interference, setback, curb, check, control, rein, restraint, constraint, repression, restriction, inhibition, rebuff, slap-in-the-face, put-down.

Now that is quite a list of words and phrases! Read through them again and be ready to admit that most of them have been your portion. In fact, J.L. Rodale lists the above in his book, *The Synonym Finder*, where he communicates on the subject of discouragement.

Everyone reading this article has had to deal with this enemy of the mind and disrupter of the soul. However, what very few people understand or acknowledge is that discouragement has its effect on men and women who are at the top in their executive positions and responsibilities.

Recently, I was having breakfast with a friend of mine on the West coast. He is both president and chairman of the board of the largest company of its kind in this country. We were talking about experiences which had come along with his success. Soon we found ourselves discussing frustration, fearfulness, resistance, all of which led to discouragement. It was his conviction that the higher one goes in responsibility, the greater the intensity of discouragement.

There is an aura surrounding gifted leaders. They not only exude a great deal of confidence, but they also can portray a spirit of humility. Most of the godly ones I know understand that these are divinely given traits. These attributes undergird them when they are meeting deadlines, managing people, striving for goals, making important decisions, keeping appointments, solving corporate problems, answering phone calls, directing committees and boards, and striving for excellence.

However, along with the above listed routines come failure, frustrations, waiting, hindrances, contrary thinking, unexpected encroachments upon the schedule, and fatigue. All of it is a part of the leader's turf... and beyond that, the leader often finds himself



laughing at the ridiculous realities of Murphy's Law.

Keeping ahead of things, maintaining a vision, discussing strategy with the other administrators, sustaining an optimistic spirit, and modeling the other important aspects of the role of leadership are not easy. One does not have to tarry too long before the mirror until he acknowledges to himself that he is frail and very vulnerable. John Fish wrote, "The most essential feature of man is his improvableness."

Then comes discouragement. It is both inevitable and unpredictable. It often catches the executive off guard like a thief in the night. And when it arrives, it often drapes a blanket over the spirit of the leader as he sits alone and ponders why.

There is nothing that challenges the administrator more than his own inability to rise above this seemingly ubiquitous malady. It would certainly be helpful if we could pinpoint certain things which release this kind of emotional cloud.

Discouragement may come when:

1. *Promises to me and my expectations are not realized.* Solomon wrote about this in Proverbs 13:12 where he said, "Hope deferred maketh the heart sick."
2. *Circumstances are such that I can do nothing else.* Every leader likes to be in control. He enjoys pleasing people. This is his comfort zone. Nevertheless, the Christian leader must deal with matters that are often awkward and misunderstood.
3. *I fail to measure up to what I expect of myself.* This is a subtle matter, especially for those who are inclined toward perfectionism. A leader can get down on himself as he wonders why his performance was not up to par. A pastor often has this problem when it comes to his pulpit ministry. He despairs when he thinks he failed to get his message across to the congregation, in spite of the fact that many share sincere words of appreciation.
4. *My performance disappoints others.* The administrator is fully aware that who he is and what he does reflects upon those whom he serves. He often fears letting people down. However, the greatest discouragement comes when he has done his best and people are still disappointed.
5. *Those whom I trust let me down.* One's psychological apparatus can easily become unbalanced when a trusted colleague, friend, or family member has failed him. The door of relationships can easily fall off the hinges when much of it is attached by the trust principle. Just think how David must have felt when his son Absalom was disappointed with his leadership in II Samuel 15:1-5. The ensuing verses describe David's own son as one who "stole the hearts of the men of Israel." What discouragement must have reigned in the heart of David as he dealt with the situation.
6. *Additional stress and pressure are added when I already have all I can take.* Men and women at the top are used to heavy loads and added responsibilities,

and yet there is a limit to their capacity.

Usually, working at the limits of one's emotional, mental, and physical capacity brings heightened anxiety. It is during these times that things go wrong in the plant, the board meeting, or the church. The fall-out becomes critical to the leader because it creates another set of circumstances.

Discouragement can conquer at this point in time.

7. *Others unjustly criticize my family or me.* A person at the top occupies a very visible position. He must exercise his leadership with endurance and grace. The great problem is not his visibility, but rather the verbal and non-verbal responses of others. It is the unfair, jaundiced criticism that hurts. The leader can seldom escape the pit of discouragement and despair when circumstances do not allow for an explanation or a defense.

8. *I do not get my way.* Few are able to admit that this is a major problem with negative psychological spin-off. There are times in leadership when the person in charge is emotionally involved, highly committed, and convinced that certain actions must be taken. The vote is cast and it does not go his way. It is at this time that some of the wires can become unattached from his spark plugs. The motor of his life will run, but it will not hum. Discouragement has unplugged him.

What can the Christian leader do when he is confronted with these ugly realities?

The following are a few practical ideas which I trust will serve the reader who identifies with discouragement.

1. When presented with a series of circumstances beyond your control, when things are not going well, etc., *remember to meditate and dwell on those things that you know.* No one could have been as far down as Job. Every time I read his story, I am amazed at this man's inner strength. It does seem that he knew a secret. Hear his words: *I know that my redeemer liveth....*
2. When things seem to be in reverse and the problems surround you like huge mountains, *remember there is a silver lining in every cloud... it is called the Sovereignty of God.* It is advantageous for us to understand and believe Psalm 18:30,32, "As for God, His way is perfect...and [He] maketh my way perfect."
3. When going through trials and tribulation *remember to place yourself in the best possible position.* Read and reread Psalm 62, note your refuge, your salvation, your defense, your opportunity to pour out your heart!
4. *Remember the important principle of singing and praising God.* Jack Wyrzten, founder and president of Word of Life, told me that he found this one thing more helpful than any other. He shared these verses of hymns that have helped him the most.



I hear the Savior say  
Thy strength indeed is small.  
Child of weakness, watch and pray  
Find in me thine all in all.

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Not to the strong is the battle  
Not to the swift is the race,  
But to the true and the faithful  
Victory is promised, through grace.

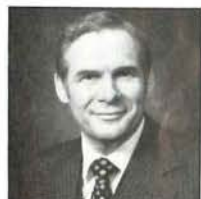
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Days of darkness still come o'er me  
Shadowed paths I often tread,  
But the Savior still is with me  
By his hand I'm safely led.

Singing worked for Paul and Silas as they were  
locked in prison. It still works today. Acts 16:25;  
Psalm 95:1-3.

5. If possible, get out of the fast lane. Take a  
breather; be still; stand alone beside a stream; gaze  
at the beauty of a flower; *remember to meditate  
upon the Word of God.*

It is a truism that there is no exemption from discouragement for those who are at the top. However, whether you are at the top, the bottom, or somewhere in between, there is "...grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:16).



Dr. Wendell W. Kempton is President of Association of Baptists for World Evangelism, an agency which serves 714 missionaries in 22 countries. A popular speaker at churches and conferences, he also ministers to several professional sports teams.

## Drs. Dixon, Kyle Honored at Commencement

At the 90th annual Commencement program of Cedarville College on June 7, Dr. Paul H. Dixon, President, was recognized for having completed doctoral studies at the University of Cincinnati. Cedarville conferred an honorary Doctor of Humanities upon Dr. Donald F. Kyle, long-time physician in the village of Cedarville and friend of the college.

Dr. Howard Johnston of the University of Cincinnati presented Dr. Dixon with the doctoral hood representing the completion of his studies for the Doctor of Education degree at the university. Dr. Dixon previously had received two honorary doctoral degrees: the Doctor of Divinity from Tennessee Temple University and the Doctor of Laws from Liberty University.

Dr. Kyle attended Cedarville College for two years before going on to The Ohio State University for medical studies. For many years he was the consulting physician for the College, and in 1972 the Alumni Association named him Alumnus of the Year. Completing a medical practice in Cedarville that has spanned a half century, Dr. Kyle announced his retirement as of June 1 this year.

Cedarville College graduated 384 students at the Commencement. In addition to the Bachelor of Arts degree recipients, 30 received the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree and 15, the Associate of Arts degree in Secretarial Studies.

A number of graduates received special awards including President's Trophy winners Noel Hack, La Grange, Ohio; Jim Reiter, Westerville, Ohio; and Sherri Watson, Coshocton, Ohio. Janice Warren of Cedarville, Ohio, earned the Faculty Scholarship Trophy denoting the highest cumulative grade point average (3.989) in the graduating class.



## New Library Progressing

Huge cranes position steel girders and armies of cement mixers pour concrete as the New Library takes form. Rising between the present library and Cedar Lake, the massive structure, will rival the Athletic Center in size and will be an information-age research and learning center for our 1800 students. Scheduled for completion in June 1987, the New Library will be a fitting tribute to Cedarville College's 100 years in higher education.



# CAMPUS NEWS



**Dr. Irene Alyn**

## Summer Ministry



For most of the year, Dr. Irene Alyn devotes her energies to the Cedarville College Department of Nursing. She chairs the department, was instrumental in securing accreditation for the nursing program by the National League for Nursing earlier this year, and was named Faculty Member of the Year at Honors Day in May.

However, for a few days each July, Dr. Alyn wears a different hat.

For the past 15 years, Dr. Alyn, three pastors, and the director of a juvenile detention home have conducted a wilderness camping trip for young people. In a beautiful, primitive setting in northern Canada, the

focus of this camping experience is Jesus Christ.

The campers are a mixed group: they come from churches, from detention homes, and from the streets of large cities. The group meets in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and travels north by bus into northern Ontario. They unload their canoes, travel by water up river and across lakes, and portage over land until they reach their destination far from civilization. Dr. Alyn says they set up their campsite on a lake and eat lots of fish!

She observes that young people, regardless of their background, have problems with stress and self-worth; they are seeking meaning to life.

Through the chores of primitive camping and strict rules, the young people learn about consistency, authority, and how to depend on one another. Dr. Alyn says they also learn to have wholesome fun.

Since the campers are far from medical help, Dr. Alyn's role as camp nurse is a vital one. Another responsibility she especially values is that of conducting daily morning devotions. She leads the group through a basic study of Bible doctrine: God, man, sin, the fall, Christ, salvation, and the need for repentance.

Far away from their familiar environments, the young people have the opportunity to learn about God's love for them in a tangible way through His creation, through rigorous Bible study twice each day, and through the concern of caring Christians. With three pastors (two of whom are her brothers) and a detention home director on staff, she adds, there is good follow up after the campers go home!

Dr. Alyn says that the experience has been a life-changing one for campers and directors alike, and she gives many examples of young people whom God saved during those camping trips.

As the camp brochure states, it is the desire of the directors "that all of us will be able to return from the trip with a deeper understanding of and a closer relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, 'The One whom to know aright is Life eternal.'"

## MIS Fosters Burden for Missions

Commenting on the Missionary Internship Service program (MIS) at Cedarville College, Harold Green, Vice President for Campus Ministries, says, "We feel that MIS is a ministry that helps young people discover whether the mission field is for them. We have had a number of students make the decision to go to the mission field as a result of their MIS experiences. Others find that it's not for them. But they all come back with a tremendous burden for missions."

In 1970, Green and Dr. Don Callan, Athletic Director at Cedarville, organized the first MIS team. Since then, over 1000 individuals have raised an average of \$1600 in support to go to 40 countries.

MIS teams are unique in that they arrive on the field trained and ready to go to work. Their ministry has been of great value to missionaries and national pastors.

This summer 88 students are serving in 10 countries. The college sent a 15-member soccer team plus five other students to the Ivory Coast; a basketball team plus nine students to the Philippines; music teams to Australia, Brazil, and England; and individuals to China, Germany, Quebec, Italy, and Ecuador.





A native of Long Island, New York, Tina Hodelmann is a communications major at Cedarville College.

## "I left New York City for Cedarville College..."

For one reason. Balance. A balance between the academic and spiritual aspects of college life. A balance which challenges me to grow both as a student and as a Christian.

Being from New York City, I had some of the best universities in the country at my fingertips. They offered academic challenge, but little opportunity for spiritual development. However, Cedarville was serious about both. That's what attracted me.

Everyone I talked to — friends, people at my high school, and others I respect — told me Cedarville was

of the highest academic quality. Now that I am at the College, I've found that's so true! Classes are small. Faculty are within reach. And the Word influences the content of each class.

My professors care about me. To them, I'm not a number. I'm an individual. They don't just lecture, they interact — by word, by example — like friends. They challenge me to grow, to think. Sure, they're demanding when it comes to classwork. But they make certain my spiritual life is challenged as well.

The whole atmosphere at Cedarville says to me,

'Tina, along with a solid education you need a solid relationship with God.' I hear it not only in my classes, but also in chapel every day. I even hear it in my Christian service. It leads to serious talks with my friends where we wrestle with various topics and spiritual issues and sharpen one another. Like Proverbs says, 'Iron sharpeneth iron....'

Balance. That's what makes Cedarville so special. Sure, New York City has great opportunities. I love it. But Cedarville is giving me the greatest opportunity: to stretch my heart as well as my mind."

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